



**Date:** December 6, 2006

**To:** Shannon Wilhelmsen, Director and Matt Burdick, Community Relations Director, ADOT Communication and Community Partnerships (CCP)

**From:** Sue Lewin, Northwest Valley Community Outreach Team

**Subject:** Documentation of November 2006 Public Open Houses for US 60 Grand Avenue Widening Design Concept and Environmental Study, Loop 303 to 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue

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In mid-November 2006, ADOT CCP in partnership with Valley Project Management and Environmental Planning Group (EPG) hosted three public open houses for the US 60 Grand Avenue Widening Design Concept and Environmental Study, Loop 303 to 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Engineering Alliance Consortium, CCP's Public Involvement, Government Relations, Public Relations Consultant for the Northwest (Maricopa County) Regional Focus Corridor, took the lead in coordinating these meetings, the purpose of which was to invite the public to learn about and provide input on the preferred design alternative identified via the study. The IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum level for these meetings was *Consult*, i.e., "To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions." The public comments obtained from these meetings will be incorporated into the Categorical Exclusion environmental document for the study.

#### **Meeting Preparation**

Planning for the public meetings for this project was discussed at the October 10, 2006 Agency Coordination Meeting, and the consensus was to hold two meetings, one during the daytime in Sun City to encourage attendance by the area's large population of senior citizens, and another in the evening for the convenience of people that cannot attend a daytime meeting. Staff present from City of Surprise indicated their desire to hold evening meeting in their city. No staff members from City of El Mirage were present at the meeting; however, a third meeting was added at the request of Jerry Horacek from City of El Mirage, who requested an evening meeting in his city. Mr. Horacek emphasized the importance of this project to citizens of El Mirage, since Grand Avenue is their only connection to the Valley freeway system. Arrangements were made to hold the open houses at two Dysart District elementary school cafeterias and on Sun City Recreation Center meeting room.

**Meeting Notification.** Because the project involved preparation of an environmental document, notices of the meetings were published in two local newspapers in accordance with ADOT EPG's public meeting guidelines. The official *Notice of Record* (see attached) was published on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, in the Daily News-Sun. The notice also appeared in the November 1<sup>st</sup> Northwest section of the Arizona Republic, which is distributed in Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand, El Mirage, Surprise, and Wickenburg. Bilingual notices were hand-delivered to all addresses with Grand Avenue frontage within the project limits. At the request of Jerry Horacek, City of El Mirage, bilingual notices were also hand-delivered to all residences and businesses in El Mirage within the area bounded by Grand Avenue, Thunderbird Road, Dysart Road and Greenway Road.

**Pre-meeting.** A pre-meeting was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> at the offices of Engineering Management Consultant DMJM Harris to discuss the logistics, slide presentation, boards and handouts to be used for the meetings.

**Media Outreach.** The attached news release was prepared and distributed to local media. The attached project key messages and talking points were developed, and ADOT Media Relations Coordinator Diane D'Angelo and EA Communications Manager Daina Mann held a briefing for local



news media on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> to share the key messages, provide clarification and answer questions. Overall, coverage was positive or balanced, with minimal inaccurate or misleading reporting, such as a story indicating an *environmental* study of grade separations along Grand Avenue would commence next summer, when ADOT staff had said a *feasibility* study would commence next summer. Follow-up calls were made promptly by ADOT media relations staff to any media outlets who reported incorrect information.

### **Meeting Summaries**

Spanish translation was available at each of the open houses. Displayed at each meeting were informational exhibit boards and a complete set of project plans identifying the project alignment and right of way requirements. Each meeting included a formal presentation following by a 15-minute question and answer period. ADOT Community Relations Director Matt Burdick made the presentations at the two meetings on November 14<sup>th</sup> and Assistant State Engineer Floyd Roehrich, Jr. made the presentation at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Question cards were provided to each attendee upon sign-in, and they were asked to use the card to submit their questions in writing to project team members during the presentation and the Q&A period. This enabled Matt Burdick to read each question to the audience prior to answering it. Use of this method ensured that everyone could hear the questions and the answers and prevented any one person from monopolizing the Q&A period. Each attendee was also given a survey form to complete. Attached are copies of the sign-in sheets, slide presentation, transcribed questions and answers, completed survey forms, and project fact sheet distributed at the meetings.

#### **Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>:**

The first meeting of the day was held at 2:00 pm at the Mountain View Recreation Center in Sun City. The meeting was attended by 34 citizens, and 14 surveys were returned. The comments were generally positive, and Matt Burdick received applause after the presentation. A few of the respondents expressed concerns about noise and interest in rubberized asphalt. Only one out of the 14 surveys included a comment about the need for an overpass or underpass to accommodate golf carts. Twelve respondents subscribed to the project database.

The second meeting was held at 6:00 pm at El Mirage Elementary School in the City of El Mirage. The meeting was attended by 24 citizens. The City of El Mirage was represented by Mayor Fred Waterman, Vice Mayor Michele Kern, City Manager BJ Cornwall, and Jerry Horacek. Also in attendance were Brandon Forrey from City of Peoria, Brian Pirout from City of Surprise and Bob Darr from City of Glendale. Six surveys were returned, and all six respondents subscribed to the project database. Comments were generally favorable but included requests for better access to El Mirage Road and closure of the drainage channel.

#### **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>:**

The third meeting in the series was held at 6:00 pm at Cimarron Springs Elementary School 15 17032 W. Surprise Farms Loop S. in the City of Surprise. Sixteen citizens were in attendance, plus Dr. Bob Maki, City of Surprise Engineer, and AZ Republic Reporter Jon Higuera. Seven surveys were returned, and all seven respondents asked to be subscribed to the project database. The comments in the surveys were generally favorable, although one gentleman suggested we provide less introductory facts. He is from Sun City Grand and is very concerned about noise mitigation for his community. He followed up this morning by copying us on an e-mail in which he reiterated his concerns and encouraged the members of his community to send in similar comments for the project record by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Project team members responded individually to every comment received via e-mail, thanking each person for their comments, informing them that their input is being recorded as part of the project record, providing answers and responses where appropriate, and inviting them to subscribe to the project database for future updates. Copies of these e-mail responses are attached to this meeting report.



**Program Results.** The primary goals for sharing project information with the public and getting feedback from the public on the preferred alternative were accomplished via these public open houses. The secondary goal of educating the local community about the Regional Transportation Plan and ADOT's role in implementing the freeway component of the Plan was also accomplished. The latter is important for this project because some communities within the project limits wanted more amenities included in the project that are provided for in Phase I of the Regional Transportation Plan.

**Attachments:**

1. Meeting Notices
2. News Release
3. Newspaper Advertisement of Record
4. Handout (fact sheet)
5. Sample Survey Forms



## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



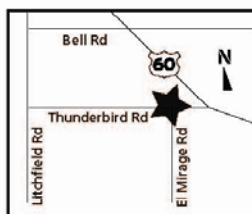
# PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

### US 60 Grand Avenue Widening Project Loop 101 to Loop 303

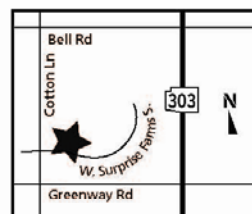
**Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006**  
**Mountain View**  
**Recreation Center**  
**9749 107th Ave**  
**Sun City, AZ**  
**2 pm - 3:30 pm**  
**Presentation at 2:30 pm**



**Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006**  
**El Mirage Elementary School**  
**Cafeteria**  
**12308 W Thunderbird Rd**  
**El Mirage, AZ**  
**6 pm - 7:30 pm**  
**Presentation at 6:30 pm**



**Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006**  
**Cimarron Springs Elementary School**  
**Cafeteria**  
**17032 W Surprise Farms Loop S.**  
**Surprise, AZ**  
**6 pm to 7:30 pm**  
**Presentation at 6:30 pm**

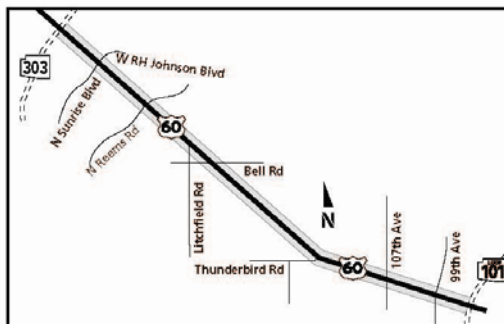


The general public is invited to attend public information meetings November 14 and 15, 2006 to learn about and provide input on the preferred alternative for the Grand Avenue Widening Project. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting an engineering and environmental study to widen US 60 Grand Avenue from four to six lanes between Loop 303 and Loop 101.

A brief presentation of the preferred alternative will be made at the meeting, followed by an open house where project information in the form of maps and displays will be available for viewing. Representatives from the ADOT study team will be present to answer your questions and address your concerns on a one-on-one basis after the formal presentation.

For additional technical and project information or to submit comments in writing, please contact Sue Lewin c/o EA Northwest Corridor Community Outreach Team, 5727 N. 7th St., Suite 120, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or [ProjectUpdate@engall.com](mailto:ProjectUpdate@engall.com). Phone: 602-283-1195. Written comments should be submitted by November 30, 2006.

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA): Persons may request special accommodations such as sign language interpreters by contacting Sue Lewin at 602-283-1195. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. This notice is available in alternative formats by contacting Sue Lewin at 602-283-1195.



**PERRY POWELL**  
ADOT Phoenix Construction District Engineer

**KHALID SALAHUDDIN**  
ADOT Project Manager

**SAM ELTERS**  
ADOT State Engineer

THIS NOTICE IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.ADOTENVIRONMENTAL.COM](http://WWW.ADOTENVIRONMENTAL.COM).

TRACS No. H6866011





# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



## REUNIÓN PÚBLICA

### US 60 Grand Avenue Proyecto de Ampliación Circuito 101 al Circuito 303

**Martes, 14 de noviembre del 2006**

**Mountain View**

**Recreation Center**

**9749 107th Ave**

**Sun City, AZ**

**2 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Presentación a las 2:30 pm**



**Martes, 14 de noviembre del 2006**

**El Mirage Elementary School**

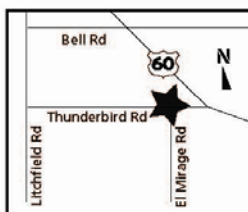
**Cafeteria**

**12308 W Thunderbird Rd**

**El Mirage, AZ**

**6 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Presentación a las 6:30 pm**



**Miércoles, 15 de noviembre del 2006**

**Cimarron Springs Elementary School**

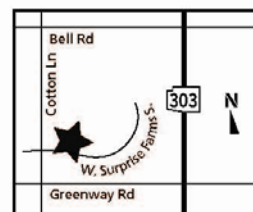
**Cafeteria**

**17032 W Surprise Farms Loop S.**

**Surprise, AZ**

**6 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Presentación a las 6:30 pm**



Se le invita al público en general a que asista a las reuniones públicas el 14 y 15 de noviembre del 2006, para que aprenda más y, a la misma vez, aporte sus ideas sobre la alternativa preferida del Proyecto de ampliación de la carretera Grand Avenue. El Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT), en conjunto con la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), está conduciendo un estudio de ingeniería y medioambiente para ampliar la carretera US 60 Grand Avenue de cuatro a seis carriles entre el Circuito 303 y el Circuito 101.

Durante la reunión se llevará a cabo una breve presentación sobre la alternativa preferida, seguida por una recepción en la cual se exhibirá información sobre el proyecto por medio de mapas y visualizaciones disponibles para vista del público. Los representantes del equipo de estudio de ADOT estarán presentes después de la presentación formal para contestar individualmente a sus preguntas y aclarar sus preocupaciones o inquietudes.

Para mayor información técnica y del proyecto, o para enviar comentarios por escrito, por favor contacte a Sue Lewin c/o EA Northwest Corridor Community Outreach Team, 5727 N. 7th St., Suite 120, Phoenix, AZ 85014, o por correo electrónico a la dirección: [ProjectUpdate@engall.com](mailto:ProjectUpdate@engall.com), o por teléfono al número: 602-283-1195. Los comentarios por escrito deberán ser enviados a no más tardar del 30 de noviembre del 2006.

Ley para personas con discapacidades (ADA): Las personas interesadas pueden solicitar arreglos especiales, tales como intérpretes de lenguaje por señas, contactando a Sue Lewin al número: 602-283-1195. Las solicitudes deberán ser completadas lo más pronto posible de modo que permitan el tiempo necesario para preparar los arreglos. Este aviso está disponible en formatos alternativos al contactar a Sue Lewin al número: 602-283-1195.



**PERRY POWELL**  
ADOT Phoenix Construction District Engineer

**KHAID SALAHUDDIN**  
ADOT Project Manager

**SAM ELTERS**  
ADOT State Engineer

ESTE AVISO ESTÁ DISPONIBLE EN EL PORTAL DE INTERNET [WWW.ADOTENVIRONMENTAL.COM](http://WWW.ADOTENVIRONMENTAL.COM).

TRACS No. H6866011





**Arizona  
Department of  
Transportation**

## **NEWS**

For Immediate Release  
Contact: ADOT Media Relations  
Phone: 800-949-8059

### **ADOT to host meetings on Grand Avenue widening between Loops 101 and 303**

**\*\*\*Correction – meeting dates have been revised from previous version.\*\*\***

#### **Nov. 13, 2006 – For Immediate Release**

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will host a series of meetings starting Nov. 14 to provide local residents with information about proposed plans to widen Grand Avenue (US 60) between the Loop 101 and Loop 303 in the northwest Valley.

ADOT will present the agency's recommended design for adding one lane in each direction along Grand Avenue and invite residents to comment on the plans. Final design of the project is slated to begin in June 2007, pending completion of the required environmental process.

Construction of the roadway improvements is currently scheduled to start in early 2009 and be completed by summer 2010. The meetings will be held as follows:

#### **Tuesday, Nov. 14**

Mountain View Recreation Center  
9749 107<sup>th</sup> Ave, Sun City  
2:00 - 3:30 pm; presentation at 2:30 pm

#### **Tuesday, Nov. 14**

El Mirage Elementary School - Cafeteria  
12308 W. Thunderbird Rd, El Mirage  
6:00 -7:30 pm; presentation at 6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, Nov. 15**

Cimarron Springs Elementary School - Cafeteria  
17032 W. Surprise Farms Loop S., Surprise  
6:00 -7:30 pm; presentation at 6:30 pm

-more-

## Attachment 2: News Release

Add One

US 60 Grand Avenue Public Meetings

The same information will be provided at each meeting. A brief presentation about the widening project will given followed by an open house where guests can view project maps and design plans and speak with ADOT representatives about the proposed Grand Avenue improvements.

The Grand Avenue (US 60) widening project is included in the voter-approved Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a blueprint for valley wide transportation improvements for the next 20 years. Funding for the plan started in January 2006. ADOT is responsible for implementing the highway component of the plan, which includes \$9 billion for new and improved freeways and freeway maintenance.



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**



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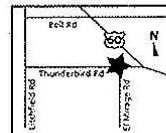
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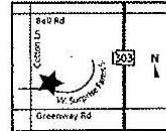
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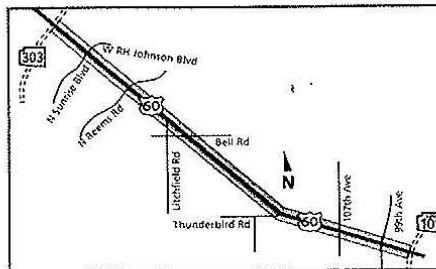
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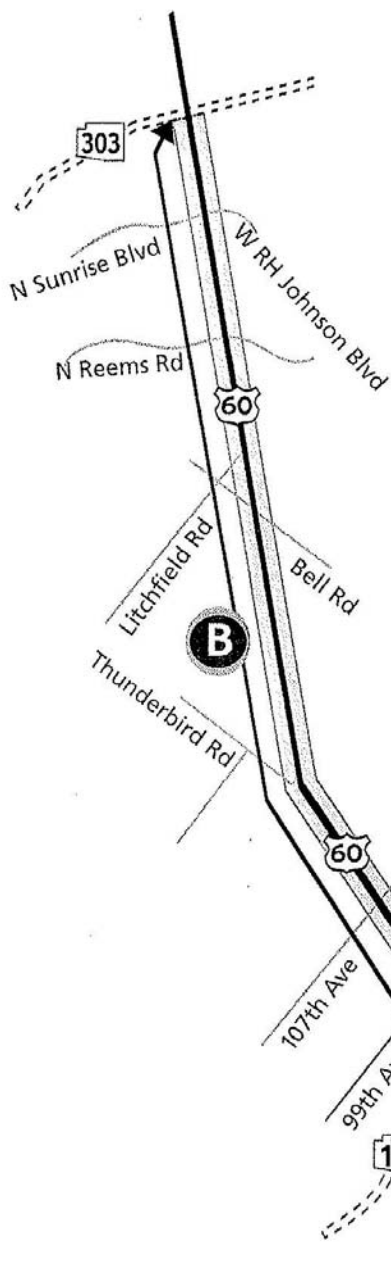
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# FACT SHEET

September 2006

## Grand Avenue (U.S. 60) Loop 303 to 83rd Avenue



As part of a valley-wide program of improvements in the voter-approved Regional Transportation Plan, Grand Avenue (U.S. 60) is proposed to be widened by one lane in each direction between Loop 303 and 83rd Avenue to create a continuous six-lane arterial by 2009.

This 10-mile stretch of Grand Avenue (U.S. 60) is a primary urban arterial connecting several west valley communities, including El Mirage, Surprise, Youngtown, Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand and Peoria. In addition, U.S. 60 is a vital link in the statewide highway system and connects the metropolitan Phoenix region with Las Vegas and Interstate 15.

### LEGEND

◀▶ Lane Widening

### Proposed Lane Widening Project

- A** 99th to 83rd Avenues – Phase I (2006-2010)\*
  - Funding included in Regional Transportation Plan to widen Grand Avenue (U.S. 60) to a six-lane arterial roadway.
- B** Estrella Freeway (Loop 303) to Agua Fria Freeway (Loop 101) – Phase I (2006-2010)\*
  - Funding included in Regional Transportation Plan to widen Grand Avenue (U.S. 60) to a six-lane arterial roadway.

### Regional Transportation Plan Phases

Phase I	2006 -2010	Phase III	2016-2020
Phase II	2011-2015	Phase IV	2021-2025

Note: The phasing dates represent the proposed funding date for US 60 improvements identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.

\*Projects pending outcome of environmental process



## Attachment 4: Meeting Handout – “US 60/Grand Avenue Fact Sheet”

### FACT SHEET

### Grand Avenue (US 60)



Traffic projections show that the typical weekday daily traffic volume on this segment of Grand Avenue is estimated to double between 2006 and 2025.

A Grand Avenue Widening Study is being conducted to evaluate capacity needs in this corridor as part of the required environmental process. The study, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2007, is evaluating possible alternatives for adding the new lanes, as well as a “no-build” alternative, in which no capacity improvements would be made. The concepts under evaluation would widen Grand Avenue from two to three lanes in either direction by widening into the median wherever possible to minimize the need for additional right-of-way.

The study includes an analysis of environmental impacts, such as traffic noise, air quality and socioeconomic issues, as well as possible mitigation of those impacts. Possible improvements to safety, drainage and the appearance of Grand Avenue are also being evaluated. The environmental document and a “Design Concept Report,” which will be the final products of the study, will include an analysis of the various alternatives studied and recommend a “preferred alternative.”

### Contact Us

We are interested in your input about the Grand Avenue Widening Study. Please contact us if you have any questions, concerns or comments.

#### **Sue Lewin**

Northwest Valley Community Outreach Team

Email: [projectupdate@engall.com](mailto:projectupdate@engall.com)

Hotline: 602.283.1195

Para Español, 602.821.7019

#### **Matt Burdick**

ADOT Community Relations

Email: [mburdick@azdot.gov](mailto:mburdick@azdot.gov)

Phone: 602.712.7049



## Attachment 5: Sample Public Meeting Survey Form



US 60/Grand Avenue Widening, Loop 303 to 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
November 2006

### GRAND AVENUE WIDENING PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY

Thank you for attending today's meeting to learn about proposed improvements for the Grand Avenue corridor and share your comments with our project staff. Your opinions are important to ADOT and the project teams that are helping to implement these improvements. Please take time to complete the following survey to help us better serve you in the future:

1. How did you hear about today's meeting? (Please check all that apply.)

☐ Newspaper      ☐ Received flyer      ☐ E-mail      ☐ Word of Mouth  
☐ Radio Announcement      ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please share any suggestions you may have for better ways to notify you of these meetings:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The information provided at today's meeting was presented in various formats: Slide presentation, exhibit boards, rolled-out plan sets and newsletters. Please share suggestions you may have for improving the way we present information to you at public meetings:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you have comments on this project that you would like to share with ADOT, please record them below and return your survey form to a project representative at the sign-in table:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. To sign up for our mailing list to receive the latest information about this or other ADOT projects, please make your selection(s) and provide your contact information below:

☐ US 60 Grand Avenue      ☐ Interstate 17 Black Canyon Freeway (north of Loop 101)  
☐ Loop 101 Agua Fria Freeway      ☐ Interstate 17 Black Canyon Freeway (south of Loop 101)  
☐ Loop 303 Estrella Freeway (north of Interstate 10)      ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Loop 303 Estrella Freeway (south of Interstate 10)      \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal information will be used strictly for ADOT public information and will not be shared with or sold to other parties. Please return completed survey at sign-in table or mail to:  
ADOT c/o NW Community Outreach team; 5727 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 120, Phoenix, AZ 85014